

What is claim d is:

1. A selfaligned process for a flash memory, comprising the steps of:

5 depositing a first polysilicon layer, ONO layer,
 second polysilicon layer, a tungsten silicide and
 a hard mask layer in stack over a tunnel oxide
 layer for a gate structure having a sidewall;
 forming a drain and source regions with said gate
10 structure as a mask;
 cleaning said tungsten silicide layer with a solution
 having a high etch selectivity to said tungsten
 silicide;
 performing an annealing process; and
15 forming a spacer on said sidewall.

2. A selfaligned process according to claim 1,
wherein said cleaning said tungsten silicide layer comprises
applying an SC-1 solution to said tungsten silicide layer.

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3. A selfaligned process according to claim 1,
wherein said performing an anneal process comprises applying
a rapid thermal treatment.

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4. A selfaligned process for a flash memory,

comprising the steps of:

forming a gate stack including a metal silicide on a
tunnel oxide layer;

forming a drain and source regions with said gate
stack as a mask;

etching a sidewall of said metal silicide;

performing an annealing process; and

forming a spacer for said gate stack.

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10 5. A selfaligned process according to claim 4,
wherein said etching a sidewall of said metal silicide comprises
applying a solution having a high etch selectivity to said metal
silicide.

15 6. A selfaligned process according to claim 4,
wherein said performing an anneal process comprises applying
a rapid thermal treatment.

20 7. A selfaligned process according to claim 6,
wherein said rapid thermal treatment comprises a heating in
an atmosphere containing oxygen free radicals in a chamber.

25 8. A selfaligned process according to claim 7,
wherein said rapid thermal treatment comprises providing a
hydrogen and oxygen gases into said chamber.

9. A selfaligned process according to claim 8, wherein said reactor has a pressure of about 5 to 50 torrs.